Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data storage system for a portable data generating appliance comprising:

a temporary data storage circuit coupled, in use, to receive data from the appliance, where the temporary data storage circuit has a storage capacity sufficient to store data comprising at least one picture from the appliance;

a permanent data storage circuit coupled, in use, to receive data from the temporary data storage circuit; and

a control circuit coupled to the temporary data storage circuit and the permanent data storage circuit, ~~the control circuit being adapted to effect transfer of data from the temporary data storage circuit to the permanent data storage circuit,~~ wherein the control circuit monitors the amount of time that data is held in the temporary data storage circuit and, after data is held in the temporary data storage circuit for a predetermined time period, causes the data to be transferred to the permanent data storage circuit.

2. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portable data generating appliance is a digital camera.

3. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the portable data generating appliance is a digital still image camera.

4. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data storage system is contained in an interface card that is separable from the data generating appliance and, in use, is received by the data generating appliance to provide coupling for data transfer from the data generating appliance to said temporary data storage circuit.

5. (Previously Presented) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the permanent data storage circuit comprises a non-volatile memory module that is detachably coupled to the data storage system to allow a plurality of different non-volatile memory modules to be used in a single data storage system.

6. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the permanent data storage circuit comprises a non-volatile memory module that is replaceable in the interface card to allow a plurality of different memory modules to be used in a single data storage system.

7. (Previously Presented) A data storage system as claimed in claim 3, where the storage capacity is sufficient to store data comprising substantially one picture from the digital still image camera.

8. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the temporary data storage circuit comprises RAM.

9. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the temporary data storage circuit comprises Flash memory.

10. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the permanent data storage circuit comprises non-volatile write-once memory.

11. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control circuit is operative to effect transfer of data from the temporary data storage circuit to the permanent data storage circuit upon occurrence of a predetermined event.

12. (Currently Amended) A data storage system as claimed in claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein the ~~predetermined event comprises a predetermined time period elapsed from the data being received in the temporary data storage circuit from the data generating appliance~~ control circuit causes the data to be transferred to the permanent data storage circuit after the predetermined time period if an erase command is not received by the control circuit during the predetermined time period.

13. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the predetermined event comprises further data being received by the temporary data storage circuit from the data generating appliance.

14. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the control circuit is effective to simultaneously control transfer of data from the temporary data storage circuit to the permanent data storage circuit and transfer said further data from the data generating appliance into the temporary data storage circuit.

15. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the data storage system derives primary operating power from the data generating appliance, and wherein the predetermined event comprises disconnection of power supply from the data generating appliance to the data storage system.

16. (Original) A data storage system as claimed in claim 15, including a short term power supply circuit adapted to supply power to the data storage system sufficient to transfer the data contents of the temporary data storage circuit to the permanent data storage circuit.

17. (Original) A data storage device for a digital camera, comprising:

a temporary data storage circuit coupled, in use, to receive image data from the camera;

a permanent data storage circuit coupled, in use, to receive image data from the temporary data storage circuit; and

a control circuit coupled to the temporary data storage circuit and the permanent data storage circuit, ~~the control circuit being adapted to effect transfer of image data from the temporary data storage circuit to the permanent data storage circuit upon occurrence of a predetermined event~~ wherein the control circuit monitors the amount of time that data is held in the temporary data storage circuit and, after data is held in the temporary data storage circuit for a predetermined time period, causes the data to be transferred to the permanent data storage circuit.

18-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for storing image data ~~storage~~ for ~~in~~ a digital camera, comprising:

obtaining image data generated by the digital camera representing at least one picture;

storing said image data in a temporary data storage circuit coupled to the digital camera; ~~and~~

monitoring the amount of time that said image data is held in the temporary data storage circuit; and

after said image data is held in the temporary data storage circuit for a predetermined time period, transferring said image data from said temporary data storage circuit to a permanent data storage circuit coupled to the digital camera ~~upon occurrence of a predetermined event~~.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising:

monitoring whether an erase command is received, wherein said image data is transferred from said temporary data storage circuit to said permanent data storage circuit after the predetermined time period if an erase command is not received during the predetermined time period.

37. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising:

obtaining further image data generated by the digital camera representing; and

transferring said image data from said temporary data storage circuit to said permanent data storage circuit upon obtaining said further image data.

38. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising:

testing for a power loss; and

transferring said image data from said temporary data storage circuit to said permanent data storage circuit upon determining that a power loss has occurred.